








MESA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student Friendly 6+1 Traits™ Writing Rubric

	1	2	3	4	5	6
 Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't know what I want to say yet. • I don't have a main idea. • I don't have details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a topic that is too big or one I don't know much about. • I think I have a main idea, but I'm not sure. • I only have a few details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I stick to the topic most of the time. It might be better if the topic was smaller. • I think you can figure out my main idea. • I need to include more information in my details. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I understand the topic but could narrow it a little more. • I can tell what the main idea is all about. • I have some good details to explain the main idea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I know a lot about my topic. • It's easy to tell the main idea. • I have great details to explain the main idea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am an expert on my topic. • The main idea is crystal clear. • I have details that are unusual and not everyone already knows.
 Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have ideas all jumbled up together. • I have no lead or conclusion. • Transitions—what are those? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have ideas that go off in many directions. • I have a lead or conclusion, but it needs work. • I have a couple of transitions, but they don't connect ideas clearly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have ideas that are not always in order and are confusing. • I have a lead and conclusion, but they need work. • I have some transitions that connect ideas clearly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most ideas are in the right spot. • I have a lead and conclusion. • I have transitions that connect most ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every idea is in just the right place. • I have a lead that introduces the paper and a conclusion that wraps it up. • I have transitions that connect ideas smoothly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Super organization makes my ideas clear. • My lead is a "Wow!" My conclusion is a "Wow!" • Everything connects. You never wonder how I got from beginning to end.
 Voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I wouldn't read this myself if I didn't have to. • I don't care if anyone reads this writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think there could be a moment of voice here or there. • My audience? Well, who are they anyhow? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have a tiny part of me in this writing. • I don't usually think about the audience. I just write. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think it sounds like me in parts of this writing. • I match the audience with the purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My voice is clear, and I think it sounds like me. • I work hard to make my writing interesting so it will stand out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is me. It's as individual as my fingerprints. • I am writing just for you—my reader.

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 Word Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use words that do not seem to work. I use words I don't understand. I use the same words over and over. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use the first words that come to my mind. My words are sometimes confusing. My words do not paint a picture in the reader's mind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I think a lot of my words are ordinary and everyone uses them. Some of my verbs are not strong or lively. I have too many unneeded words, so there is no clear picture in the reader's mind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use words that are clear and make sense. I have some strong verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. I still have some unneeded words or phrases to take out, but a picture is beginning to form in the reader's mind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use words that are clear, make sense, and are interesting. I have strong verbs, sensory words, and precise nouns. My words do paint a picture in the reader's mind. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use powerful words that create a clear message. I have strong verbs, sensory words, precise nouns, and modifiers. My words paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind.
 Sentence Fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is very hard to read aloud. I use mostly short, choppy sentences or long, rambling sentences. If I used dialogue, it does not make sense. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a little hard to read aloud. I use some choppy sentences and run-on sentences. If I used dialogue, it doesn't sound like the way people talk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choppy sentences slow the reader down. I use some variety in sentence beginnings and lengths. If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk some of the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing is easy to read aloud. I use a variety of sentence beginnings and lengths. If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk most of the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing is easy to read aloud with expression. I use a variety of sentence beginnings and lengths, so the writing flows smoothly. If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The writing has an easy flow and rhythm. I use a variety of sentence beginnings and lengths, so my writing flows smoothly and has bounce. If I used dialogue, it sounds like the way people talk and makes my writing stronger.
 Conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have so many errors it is impossible to understand my writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have so many errors it is difficult to understand my writing. I need to edit nearly every line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have some errors, so it is difficult to understand my writing. Basics (e.g., periods, caps, simple spelling) are correct. I need to do a lot of editing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have a few errors, but they don't make my writing difficult to understand. I use a variety of conventions correctly (semicolons, ellipses, dashes, italics, etc.) I need to do some editing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use conventions correctly, so my writing is easy to understand. I use a variety of conventions to make an impression on the reader. I have a few errors to fix. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I use conventions effectively, so my writing is spectacular. I add style to my paper using a variety of conventions. I am ready to publish my writing.
 Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can't read my own handwriting. The font, size, and spacing make my paper impossible to read. If I used visuals, they do not go with the ideas in my writing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is difficult to read my handwriting. The font, size, and spacing make my paper difficult to read. My visuals do not support my ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My letters slant in different ways. The font, size, and spacing may make my paper difficult to read. Some of my visuals do not support my ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My handwriting has clearly formed letters and the spacing is just right. The font, size, and spacing I chose is OK. My visuals help the reader understand my ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of my letters are formed correctly, with the same slant and spacing. The font, size, and spacing make my paper easy to read. Visuals are used throughout my writing and strengthen my ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All of my letters are formed correctly, with the same slant and spacing. The font, size, and spacing is eye-catching. Visuals are used throughout my writing and clearly strengthen my ideas.